

614
Halb
NO. 40

SHELVED WITH
PHYSICALS

Montana State Library
3 0864 1006 5356 0

3

LABORATORY BULLETIN

MONTANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

MAR 15 1972

HELENA, MONTANA

No. 40 - March 10, 1972

David B. Lackman, Ph.D., Administrator,
Laboratory Division, Editor

CURRENT NOTES: BOTULISM EMERGENCIES - HOSPITAL MICROBIOLOGY - CULTURE FOR GONOCOCCI - PROFICIENCY EXAMINATIONS FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL - VIROLOGY PROFICIENCY TEST - TOXOPLASMOSIS

1. Botulism emergencies - Antitoxin is manufactured by Lederle Laboratories and emergency supplies should be requested directly from their representative. For this area he is: Ronald P. Thista, 3115 - 4th Avenue North, Great Falls, 59401: telephone 452-8826. John S. Anderson, M.D., Director of the Department, should also be notified immediately (home phone 442-0663). If he cannot be reached, you may call me (home phone 443-3494). Food specimens should be sent to us as soon as possible according to instructions in Laboratory Bulletin No. 38, pg. 4 "bacterial food poisoning". Additionally, we have the following recommendation from the Center for Disease Control: "As soon as possible, but always before antitoxin is given, 30 ml. of blood should be obtained in large vacutainer tubes and sent, without separation of the serum, to the nearest laboratory capable of performing the necessary tests. The most effective way to confirm a diagnosis of botulism is to demonstrate toxicity of the patient's serum for mice and to prove specificity of the toxin by neutralization tests with antitoxin". Our laboratory is able to do this.

2. Conference on Hospital Environmental Microbiology and Infection Control - Cogswell Laboratory Building, Helena, April 7-8, 1972 - This is course #3 in "A Continuing Education Series for Medical Laboratory Personnel - 1972" of the Montana Medical Education and Research Foundation. If you did not receive an announcement of this series, request one from MONTANA MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION, P. O. Box 2829, Great Falls, Montana 59403. In addition to the faculty listed we are fortunate in that Dr. Frank Engley will be in Montana and will participate in the conference on Saturday. Dr. Engley is Professor of Microbiology, Medical School, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri and a leading authority on disinfectants and disinfection. This conference is designed to be of most benefit to persons actually doing the laboratory work to back up Infection Control Committees.

3. Culture for gonococci - Useful information has not been obtained in our laboratory from cultures of the anal canal. The very few anal specimens which have been positive, have also yielded gonococci from the cervical sample. Therefore, we are recommending a single, properly taken, cervical culture for the detection of gonococci in the human female. Instruction forms are being changed accordingly.

IF BOTTLES OF MARTIN-LESTER (TRANSGROW) MEDIA ARE NOT USED WITHIN THREE MONTHS, PLEASE RETURN TO THE STATE LABORATORY.

(over)

4. Proficiency Examinations for Medical Laboratory Personnel - These examinations will be given in Helena on May 6, 1972. Registration closes on March 24, 1972. For a booklet of information containing a registration form write to:

Proficiency Examinations for Clinical Laboratory Personnel
Educational Testing Service
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Persons who do not meet "Qualifications of Clinical Laboratory Personnel" as specified in Laboratory Bulletin No. 37 are advised to take this examination because we are moving towards either state or federal licensure for persons performing clinical laboratory tests. The June 1971 "Report on Licensure and Related Health Personnel Credentialing" from the Secretary, HEW to Congress recommends consideration of federal licensing. Here are some pertinent quotations from the examination announcement: "Examinations are given in the fields of clinical chemistry, microbiology, hematology, and blood banking (immunohematology). A candidate may take one or more of the four examinations."

"The Proficiency Examinations are designed to help employers obtain an objective evaluation of the knowledge and skills of:

The civilian laboratory worker employed at a lower level, who has received most of his training on the job, whose experience and aptitude may qualify him to perform on a higher level, but who is prevented from advancement by formal educational and training requirements."

5. Virology proficiency test - As usual, our virologist, Robert Clark, made a grade of 100 on the first CDC proficiency test of 1972. Viruses grown and correctly identified were Coxsackie A9, Parainfluenza I, Mumps, Measles (Rubeola) and Influenza B.

6. Toxoplasmosis - We do not perform tests for toxoplasmosis in our laboratory but forward specimens to the Center for Disease Control. Serological tests are of little value when performed on healthy individuals who are (1) women who are not pregnant, (2) women who have normal children, (3) family members, children or adults where there is a cat in the household but no illness, or (4) family members where there is no cat. CDC requires the following information before they will test a specimen: pregnancy, recent abortion, exposure to cats, consumption of raw meat products, or other clinical and epidemiological data suggesting possibility of the disease. Two to three ml. of serum accompanied by a completed "Miscellaneous Examinations" form should be submitted. Six specimens sent to CDC in 1970-71 had some reaction. Two were ocular toxoplasmosis and four had no apparent clinical significance.

A recent publication relating to toxoplasmosis in Montana is: Mackie, M.J., Fiscus, A.G. and Pallister, Philip, Am. J. of Epidemiology 94:215-221, 1971 "A study to determine causal relationship of toxoplasmosis to mental retardation". "It was concluded from this study that congenital infection with T. gondii is not a frequent cause of mental retardation in the Montana portion of the Rocky Mountain area." (Address for reprints: Dr. Al Fiscus, Department of Botany and Microbiology, Montana State University, Bozeman 59715)

Here is a recommendation from the epidemiology program of CDC: "A pregnant woman should be advised not to eat meat that has not been thoroughly cooked. She should avoid the introduction of a newly acquired cat to the household, since its prior diet and internal parasite history cannot be guaranteed. If there is a cat in the house, she should practice good sanitation and hygiene."